

the close markets generally were firm at the prices. The most serious decline was in Pacific which dropped ½ cent, closing very heavy. It is expected that this line are still current.

steamers Ariel, Northern Light and Queen of Queens are being altered; it is supposed, for the foreign trade. In the former, 212 new berths are placed; and the Northern Light has been crated with berths in every available part. Even the decks have been removed and placed on the stowage deck extended to the bows, to afford berth space. The Queen of the Ocean is to have a berth position like to California; but whether by the Panama or Panama route, we have been unable to learn. Can the "thunder" to which we alluded some since be coming from this quarter? The prices in the street were as follows: Missouri C., \$67; Virginia Gas, 96½¢; 96½¢; Canon Company's Cumberland Coal Company, 21; New-York City River, 34¼¢; Erie, 16½¢; Harlem, 13¾¢; Hudson River, 34¼¢; Reading, 33½¢; Michigan Central, 32½¢; Michigan Southern, 30½¢; Prof. 38½¢; Panama, 117½¢; Illinois Central, \$70; Galena and Chicago, 71½¢; Cleveland, 70¢; 32½¢; Chicago and Rock Island, 59½¢; Pacific Mail, 91½¢; Illinois Central, 89½¢.

There is nothing doing in foreign bills, and nominally heavy.

Freights are rather easier. To Liverpool, at 7-32d.; £1,000 bbls. Rosin, per steamer, 4, and 350 do. on private terms; 600 bbls. Crude Rice at 2s. 6d. To Antwerp, 300 bbls Cotton at 37½¢, and Molasses on deck at 37½¢; a schooner of 160 tons from Wilmington to Rice with Lumber at \$9, and back to New-York Sugar at 37½¢, and Molasses on deck at 37½¢; a schooner of 108 tons to St. Domingo and back \$950. A vessel from Frankfort, Maine, with Flour 25c. A vessel from Jacksonville to New-York Bonds at \$7 50.

The business of the Sub-Treasury was: Receipts \$165,308 99—for Customs, \$160,000; Payments, 635 63; \$18,000 California Drafts; Balance, \$ 718 30.

The receipts for duties have been heavy for two days.

The People's Fire Insurance Company has declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 ¢ cent, payable immediately. The New-World Fire Insurance Company semi-annual dividend of 5 ¢ cent, payable on demand. The Excelsior Fire Insurance Company a semi-dividend of 6 ¢ cent, payable on the 17th inst. Continental Fire Insurance Company a semi-dividend of 6 ¢ cent, payable on the 17th inst. Arctic Fire Insurance Company a semi-annual dividend of 8 ¢ cent, payable on the 17th inst. The Fire Insurance Company a semi-annual dividend of 8 ¢ cent, payable on the 15th inst. The Roman Waterfront Railroad Company has declared a semi-annual dividend of 3 ¢ cent, payable 15th inst. The Morris Canal and Banking Company declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 ¢ cent preferred stock, and a dividend of 1½ ¢ cent consolidated stock, both dividends payable after Feb. 1. The Broadway Savings Institution pay the usual semi-annual dividend to depositors 4 ¢ cent on sums not exceeding \$500, and 5 ¢ cent on sums over \$500, on and after Monday. The Humboldt Fire Insurance Company a semi-dividend of 5 ¢ cent, payable on demand. The Germania Fire Insurance Company a semi-annual dividend of 8 ¢ cent, payable Feb. 2.

The Cahawba took off \$150,000 in gold for Orleans. The steamer from Boston to-day took \$8,000. The business of the Clearing-House is \$108,628. There is rather more doing in Treasury Notes, and we hear of \$300,000 sold at 1 ¢ cent discount for 1 ¢ cents, due in March, and par to 75 ¢ per \$1,000 premium on 4½ ¢ cents. Some \$5 ¢ due in March, were offered at about 1-10th par. There have also been some considerable transfers at private sale in State Stocks for Western Bank. A loan from the State of Indiana for \$165,000 cents, having eighteen months to run, is on market at par. It was issued for purposes of paying the January interest on the State debt. The charter of the People's Relief Company, which was granted at the session of the Legislature of this State to Blocker and associates, and which was organized under the Presidency of Mr. Blocker, has passed the hands of other and very strong parties, and amendments can be obtained of the present legislature, will be reorganized with a capital of a million dollars, and go into operation under auspices will insure it a prominent position among the most institutions of our city. It is a very valuable charter, and contains some unusual provisions completely overriding the usury law. It is proposed to receive deposits and pay 7 ¢ cent interest thereon and to lend on pledge of personal property, charging 15 ¢ cent interest on sums under \$50, 12½ ¢ cent on sums over \$50 and under \$100, and 9 ¢ cent on sums over \$100. This will enable the Company, in strictness, to make loans on stocks, bills received at 9 ¢ cent, while the banks will be restricted to usury law to 7 ¢ cent. Among the amendments will be asked for is that of trust powers, an increase of capital, and a limitation of the charter before cannot be repealed. The gentlemen spoken of by the rectors are Henry Grinnell, G. S. Robbins, M. Morgan, Paul Spofford, R. M. Hatchford, Cyrus A. V. Stout, and others.

The business of the Illinois Central Railroad Company in December was as follows:

| LAND DEPARTMENT. | |
|--|-------------------|
| Acres Constructed and Sold in Dec., 1873 | \$148,65 for \$25 |
| Acres Interest Free Land sold | 49.28 for |
| Acres Free Lands sold | 277.39 for |

Total sales during the month.....\$1,460.28 for \$25
To which add Town Lots sold.....\$ 831.11
Total.....\$2,291.39 for \$25

| TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT. | |
|---|------------------|
| Receipts from Passengers | \$ 63,990 |
| Receipts from Freight | 71,400 |
| Receipts from Rent of Road | 2,000 |
| Receipts from other sources | 1,000 |
| Total Receipts in month of Dec., 1873..... | \$138,390 |
| Total Receipts in month of Dec., 1872..... | \$129,486 |
| Total Receipts in corresponding period of 1873..... | 2,291.39 |

We understand the United States Guano Company have entered into a contract with some of our shipping firms for the importation of a large supply of their Guano, and that the first cargo will be brought by the ship Ivanhoe, now on her outward passage from San Francisco. Samples of this Guano have analyzed in Honolulu and in this city, and found to contain between 10 and 12 ¢ cent of organic matter yielding ammonia, and from 70 to 75 ¢ cent of phosphate of lime, in a fine powder. The Company decided to limit the price of their Guano to \$30 so long as freights do not exceed 15 ¢ per ton.

The movement of the Banks in the four principal cities of the Union, in which weekly reports are made shows by their last statements, is as follows:

| LOANS DEPOSITS. | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| N.Y., Jan. 1st..... | \$123,304,942 |
| Boston, Jan. 1st..... | \$12,615,545 |
| Penn., Jan. 1st..... | \$2,365,560 |
| N.O., Jan. 1st..... | \$2,357,467 |
| Total..... | \$140,633,494 |
| Loans Deposits..... | \$140,633,494 |
| Last week..... | \$140,633,494 |

These figures show a general expansion of the movement.

In consequence of the scarcity of bars at San Francisco, a much larger proportion than usual of tinittance by the steamer which arrived to-day coin.

Messrs. Douglas & Co. have sent in the annual statement of failures in 1872 and 1873. The figures, course, are only approximate, but the statements curious and interesting. Messrs. Douglas & Co. With regard to the table annexed, to which we refer elsewhere, we would say that it has